



**KISS** **OZZY OSBOURNE**

**SEPULTURA**  
**BIOHAZARD**

*Dog Eat Dog*

**PARADISE  
LOST**

**FEAR  
FACTORY**

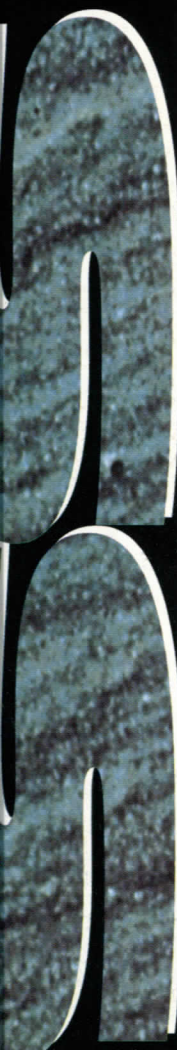
THE **KERRANG!** STAGE





MAIN STAGE

STAGE  
hrs - 2230 hrs



Over-the-top... and over here!

They said it couldn't be beaten.

They said it couldn't be bettered.

They were wrong.

The Kiss show of the mid-to-late '70s was indeed the ultimate rock 'n' roll experience. The Greatest Show On Earth, no argument, no doubt. But on this day in the year of Our Lord 1996, the annals of excess are poised to be re-written; Kiss, Gods of Thunder, Kings Of The Night Time World, etc, are about to give way to a new – although strangely familiar – force...

the band's – a "Kiss show on steroids!"

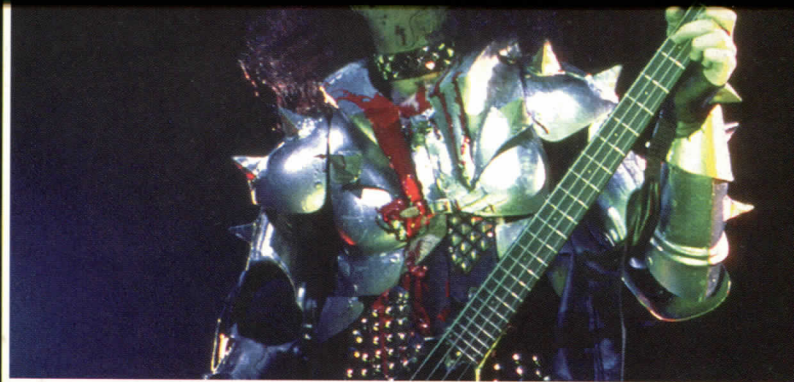
I can't wait.

In 1983, when New York's finest capped the first decade of their career with a visit to Brazil that saw them playing in front of 300,000 caffeine-crazy fans (their last outing in make-up and costume – until *now!*), they found themselves so far ahead of the rest that there was simply no-one to pass the baton to. The gauntlet remained down. Now, despite being fully stackheeled up, the fab foursome have reached down to

simply couldn't be better.

The aforementioned trip to Brazil was the end of Phase 1 in the 20-year-plus career of a band who have perennially played – in more ways than one! – to a size does indeed count; a band who didn't just flush the existing rule-book as much as write a completely new one – a 'Bible' of self-belief that remains widely well-thumbed to this day, with this chapter on 'backstage photography' a particular favorite.

You have to believe that in years to come, when the history





**MAIN**

**STAGE**  
2045 hrs - 2230 hrs

US  
M





learning, the Kiss name and logo – with its longstanding lightning bolt ‘S’s – will be gold-leafed for posterity with particular prominence and pride.

After all, this wasn’t just another pavement-to-penthouse saga; this was The Great American Dream in all its multi-flavoured glory, a Barnum-esque burn-up to the stars that boldly went where no (show)man had been before, leaving the jaded and the joyless gasping for breath in a vapour trail of fire, brimstone and unrepentant flash.

“Kiss” (’74), “Hotter Than Hell” (’74), “Dressed To Kill” (’75), the first three releases saw Kiss dramatically setting out its stall but it was ’75’s “Alive!” – regarded by all right-minded folk as one of the greatest road records *ever* – that was the watershed, a double album perfectly capturing the band in full, flared-nostril flow.

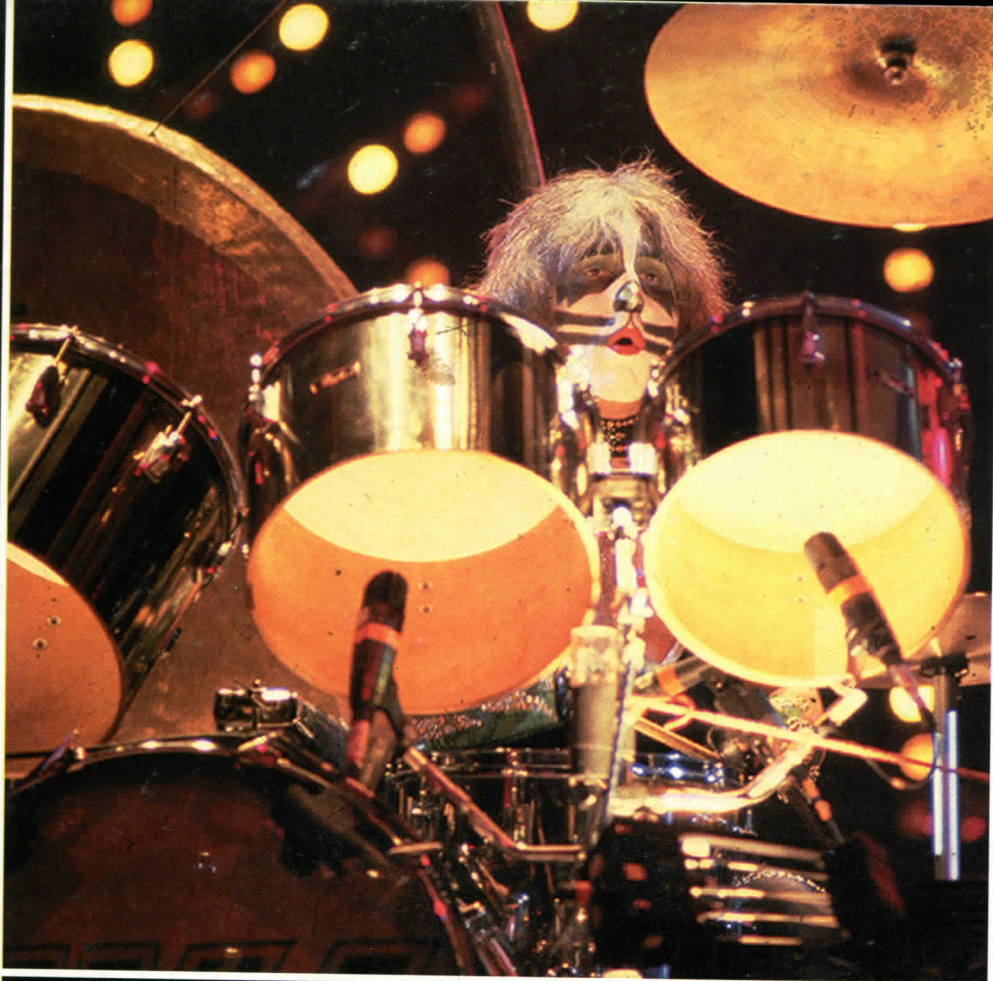
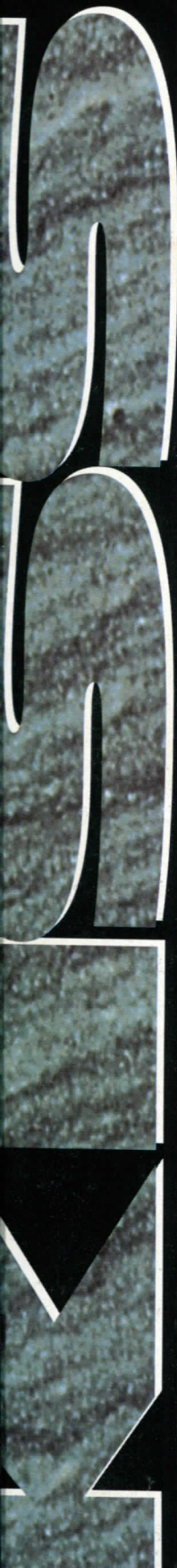
You could smell the greasepaint and just about make out the roar of the crowd above the sound of critics eating humble pie... For a lo, there *were* those who spoke out against the mammon, the make-up (omni-present) and the music (proud to be loud). In a world where John Denver was king, surely there could be no place for these Caped Crusaders and their Xtravagant ways...? Well actually there *was*, and *is*.

Like the Beatles before them, Kiss were a real gang-of-four with no weak links; every guy had his own individual look (*and* his own solo album – released on the same day in Sept. ’78), allowing fans to both follow the group as a whole *and* attach their special favour to whichever headstock drumstick they desired.



**MAIN**

**STAGE**  
15 hrs - 2230 hrs





heavily fuelled by his great love of horror films/comix in all their ghoulish glory; there was Paul Stanley, “The Starchild”, ring master consummate performer suggestive intros and smashed guitars a speciality, someone who never needed the make-up to project a star around his eye; Peter Criss, “The Cat”, the man who crooned the million-selling “Beth” (’76) and the man atop the Kiss drumkit, invariably ridden brooding style into the lights at the climax of the show; and finally Ace Frehley, “The Spaceman”, “Mr Excitement”, a street-smart character with a rocket-firing guitar and an armour-piercing laugh.

The sleeve of the “Destroyer” album (’76) depicted this Fantastic Four as all-conquering Warriors Of The Wasteland, charging over a suitably torrid looking terrain. But what you couldn’t see – presumably just off frame – was the ever-attentive legion of fans, the famed Kiss Army, loyal to the Greater Cause and delighted today that these original partners-in-crime are together once again and in proper smash-and-grab mood to boot.

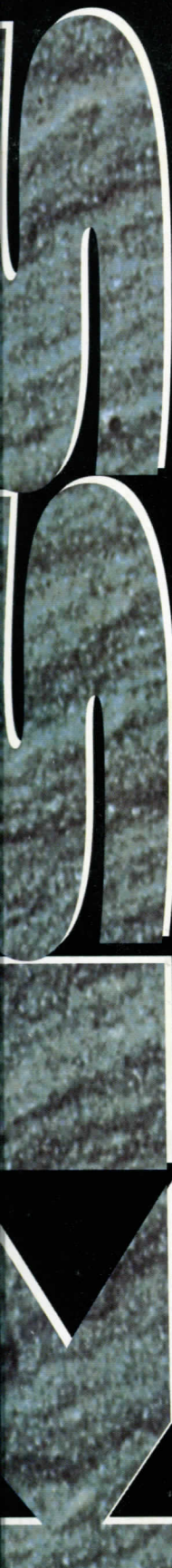
Fanatical support of this kind, however, does demand a particular kind of vigilance, a duty of protecting followers from cheap imitations; as a result, the band had no choice but to take the whole fan club/business side under their leather-coated wing with a magnanimous approach that certainly set a pattern for others to follow, although – with a few exceptions at least – it did cause a certain amount of confusion as to what the band was really about... Attitude and Music!



AIN

STAGE

hrs - 2230 hrs

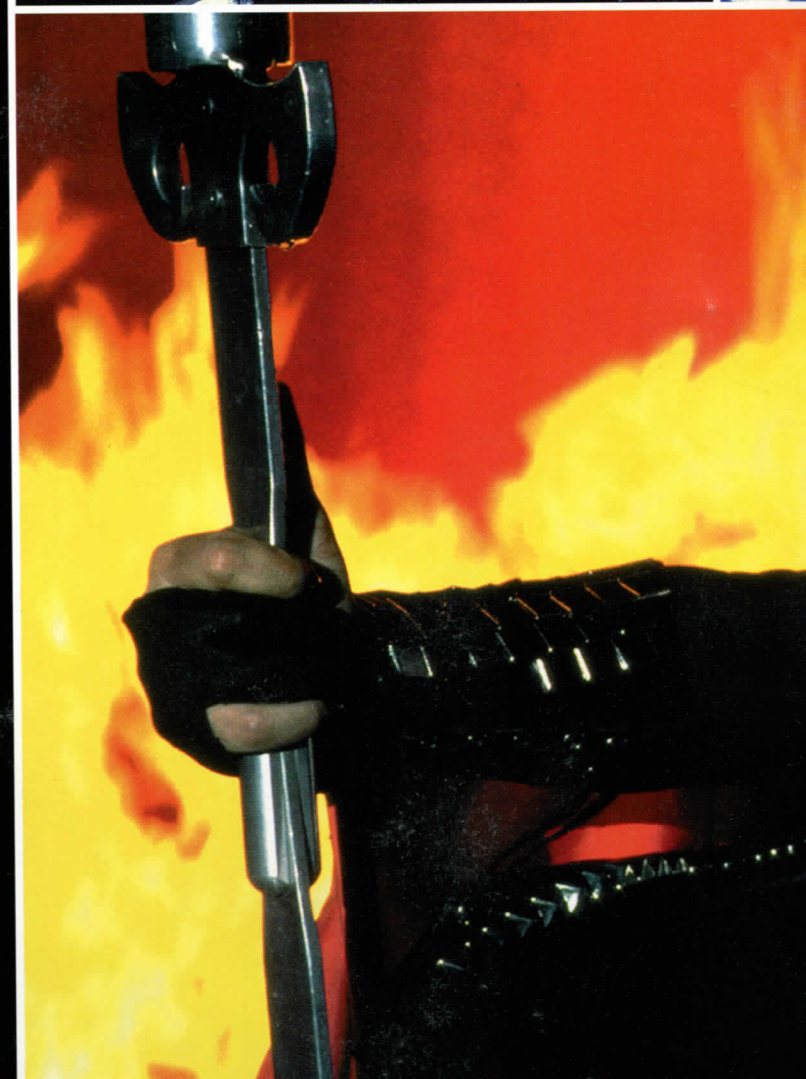


the atom onstage night after night and ultimately it wouldn't have made much difference – not to the tune of 75 million albums anyway! Drawing from classic rather than contemporary influences, the Founding Four – and of course the later Gene and Paul-led line-ups – delivered hit albums and singles with an amazing sureness of touch, forever adding new elements and revitalising old ones...

The rock-dance rumble of "I Was Made For Lovin' You" ('79), the pure pop sheen of the "Unmasked" LP ('80), the conceptual feast of "(Music From) The Elder" ('81), there was certainly no laurel-resting going on here. Music has always been (and continues to be) the prime motivation, the rest simply the icing – though I trust this will be laid on thicker and with even more explosive candles now that everyone's back for *serious* second helpings!

On a balmy Brazilian night in 1983 the make-up came off partly because people had stopped telling the band to do so, and partly because there were extra-curricular activities that needed to be pursued, new challenges to be met. Now the focus is back where it began, the time is ripe for a return to roots, The Reunion *genuinely* in demand. Kiss, let's face it, are the reason why so many of today's acts felt moved to get together in the first place, most have a cherished Kiss kover lurking somewhere up their sleeve, and all would no doubt admit that, in this context at least, they "Are not worthy"!

Bands and fans alike will truly savour this moment. The circus has been too long out of town. For those who still enjoy the smell of flashbombs in the morning, and for those who still want the best...







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# KISS

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